



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Helene Nelson, Secretary

June 2, 2006
For Immediate Release

Stephanie Marquis, Communications Director, (608) 266-1683

Brown County Aging and Disability Resource Center Receives Falls Prevention Grant

MADISON – The Department of Health and Family Services has awarded \$94,268 to the Brown County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) to create a falls prevention program in Brown and Kewaunee counties.

The Brown County ADRC is partnering with Kewaunee County to implement the Safe, Active, Independent Living (SAIL) Initiative in both counties. The joint venture is designed to reduce injuries and risk factors for falls by offering two group classes that will be introduced to older adults living throughout both counties.

The effective falls prevention programs that will be offered are Stanford University's *Living Well with Chronic Disease* and a falls prevention curriculum researched in Australia known as *Stepping On*. Both programs are based upon principals of self-efficacy.

In addition, the SAIL project will recruit a falls prevention coordinator and send two individuals from Brown County and two more from Kewaunee County to receive Master Trainer Training in the *Stepping On* program. They will then train others, develop educational materials and conduct classes in falls prevention.

The innovative Aging and Disability Resource Centers are a key component in Governor Doyle's efforts to improve the state's long term care system. The centers provide the public with information, options and advice about long-term care for persons with chronic illness or disability, such as Family Care. ADRCs also serve as the first step in making Family Care expansion a reality.

Family Care allows seniors and people with disabilities the choice to receive long-term care services in their own homes and communities. The program provides an entitlement to long-term care, using Medicaid dollars flexibly and not just earmarking dollars for nursing home care. In January, Governor Doyle set a goal of expanding the innovative Family Care program statewide within five years and eliminating all wait lists for long-term care services. Currently, about 11,500 people are on waitlists statewide.

There are Aging and Disability Resource Centers operating in Barron, Brown, Fond du Lac, Forest, Green, Jackson, Kenosha, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie/Calumet/Waupaca, Portage, Richland and Trempealeau counties.

Three years ago, the federal government launched a federal program for Aging and Disability Resources, which operate in 25 states. Wisconsin is the model for meeting the needs of an increasingly aging population.

- END -

Wisconsin.gov